



59 REVIEWS FOR:

The Age Of Scorpius

Milo Winter

★ 1.45 AVERAGE

☐ Only show reviews with written explanations**koffee witch's review** against another edition**DID NOT FINISH**

DNF 63%

I can't. I can't read one more word of this.

I wanted to give it an honest shot, because I know how dramatic people can be online. I wanted to at least see what the worldbuilding was like. I love fantasy books and even if the writing is weak, I thought maybe the magic is interesting.

The writing, on a line level, is bad. It feels like trying to decipher drunk texts. It also talks to the reader as if we can't think for ourselves. When it wants to make a point, it needs to repeat the point 3, 4, 6, 7 times.

The plot is inconsistent, full of holes, and also just boring. The entire plot falls apart if Reika just didn't ask Chase for help tracing runes. It tries to create twists and 'gotcha' moments, and not one invoked any

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excitement for me.

The magic system is convoluted and uninspiring. There's so much you can do with a zodiac-based magic system but nothing was interesting or even made sense. Powers aren't even necessarily based on your zodiac either. If you're an Aries, you could be a fire mage but you can also have an entirely different power. And sometimes, fire mages aren't Aries, they can be Sagittarius too. Powers are supposed to be determined by both your Zodiac and your parents. At that point, why use Zodiacs? It just feels like a needless attempt to make things deep and complicated, when less is more.

The characters. I couldn't stand them. It was the characters themselves that made me drop the book. The main cast consisted of Reika, the super special one; Chase, the plot convenience and Reika's hype man; Kaia, the other person that hypes Reika up; and Avia, Reika's older sister, the one who is perfectly handcrafted to be everyone's punching bag. I was not rooting for the characters at all. When poor Reika feels bad, all characters drop everything, runs over, throws several jabs at Avia, and tells her she is never wrong. She almost kills Chase? It's okay, *he* apologizes to *her*, and they also threw in a few jabs at Avia for good measure.

I'm aware there are talks of a new edition to this book that is supposed to address some issues, at least in

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prisma190's review against another edition

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 2.0



This book had a ton of issues: confusing world, one dimensional characters, too many adjectives in the prose, and conveniently meeting the right characters.

**dahliciously's review** against another edition

★☆☆☆☆ 1.0



adventurous

medium-paced

Plot or Character Driven: **A mix**Loveable characters: **Complicated**Flaws of characters a main focus: **Complicated**Strong character development: **No**Diverse cast of characters: **Yes**

Promising premise, but the prose is bloated in a way that *severely* disservices the book. If you're going to (keyword) "shoot" for prose that's purple...r in nature, I think that there needs to be an understanding that words *mean* things. Words aren't just aesthetics you can pretentiously pop into sentences and hope the meaning sticks. On a prose-level, this reads like the author is trying to prove that (1) they *can* write, and (2) they have an expansive vocabulary- both things I don't really care about if I can't understand the story.

Plot-wise, I agree with much of the criticism that it could've benefited from more time in the oven. From what I understand, the author *has* a strong understanding of the world- great! Unfortunately, it doesn't translate well in the text. A good analogy is when you get a terrible maths professor that speaks exclusively in equations without proper explanation, not knowing that they haven't actually taught you anything. I also think that some parts of the world went unconsidered? In spite of the premise receiving the bulk of the hype (alongside the...art) there are some parts of it that make very little sense given the context of the world.

I hope to give this book another try when it's republished! :)

[Show Less](#)**pterocarya's review** against another edition

★★☆☆☆ 2.0



What was even going on for 90% of the book? You only get an explanation of what you just read a paragraph later and it doesn't feel intentional (for example they step into a building from a winter forest and then she talks about walking on sand, after a sentence or two you learn that she is in a training hall and that is covered in sand, but why would I assume that?)



cowboyrowan's review against another edition

★☆☆☆☆ 1.0



challenging

mysterious

fast-paced

Plot or Character Driven: **A mix**

Loveable characters: **Yes**

Flaws of characters a main focus: **Yes**

Strong character development: **Complicated**

Diverse cast of characters: **Complicated**

This review will contain a lot of spoilers, so if you want to avoid them, don't read!!

I went into this book kind of expecting to dislike it, because I don't read a lot of fantasy, and everything I'd heard about it made me think I'd hate it. But after reading it, I have to say, I think there IS a good book in there somewhere. There were parts that I started to really enjoy and get into, but those parts would then be followed by one of the many issues that plagued this book, and it would ruin it for me.

There's so many issues with this book I honestly don't know where to begin. I guess aside from the obvious countless typos and grammatical errors, and the horrible formatting (and lack of the art which was such a big deal), the biggest issue for me was the storybuilding. As much as I can see the appeal of the lore, a lot of it just hasn't been thought through very well.

Such a big issue everyone has in this book is obviously discrimination based off their signs, and there's one point in Chapter 12 where Rieka uses her shapeshifting to transform their cloaks, because their cloaks and glyphs are the main reason they keep having issues and keep getting caught... But like... Why the fuck did they not do that anyway? In fact, in this world where people face discrimination and DEATH based off

their cloaks- because it's not like they have ID's or something, and the only way people ever get identified by their star sign in this book IS BY THEIR GLYPHS AND CLOAKS...

Surely people have in these 300 years thought to just swap their cloaks????????? Why is there not a huge black market for counterfeit cloaks and glyphs? Why do people not swap with other people??? Like this is such an obvious issue that I genuinely cannot believe at no point other than in chapter 12 did it occur to them to just do that?

Similarly, the amount of times that characters would say things like "wow you're so serious" to Rieka because she's a Scorpio, or about Avia being impulsive because she's an Aries... Their star signs are surely by this point so innate to their world after 300+ years of living like this that it makes absolutely no sense that all comment on things like this? Like this happens CONSTANTLY in the book and every time I was just so lost. That would be like me walking up to a man and being like 'woah you have a beard that's crazy...' This set up is all these characters have EVER KNOWN??

Another huge world building issue that drove me nuts was the like, segregation. What is the point of making star signs only marry other people of that star sign if they aren't then only producing children of the same star sign? The reason that kind of thing is done historically is to 'keep genetics pure'. If it was said that couples are allowed to ONLY try for children at certain parts of the years in order to ensure their children are of the same star sign as them, but yes obviously premature babies and cryptic pregnancies happen, then okay fair enough. But what is the point of making people date and marry within their star sign if there's no real expectation or law to follow through on that with children?

Likewise, I was really puzzled by how unprepared Rieka was at the start of the book when she was told she had to leave her parents and couldn't live with them. Surely this happens to a HUGE amount of children, that they have to leave home immediately at 18? Why is there not a housing system already built around this? She only got lucky that Chase found somewhere for her to stay.

Another big issue I had was the whole cusp thing. While in theory, that is a really interesting idea, I don't think it's been well thought through. Technically speaking, there is no real thing such as a cusp star sign. Unless it means everyone born on the last or first days of a new star sign but like... Then that would be TONS of people? But it was made out as if it was very unusual, and it just doesn't really make sense with the world building. In this whole world which is set up around your star sign, why on earth would they decide being born on the last day of that star sign means you get both? Like that seems super counter-intuitive.

Putting aside the world building, there's a lot to say about the characters and plot. I personally hate books and movies being stretched out to a trilogy, but I have to say, I think this book actually would've been better as a series. I just don't think 358 pages is enough space to really set all of this up in a satisfying way. It reached a point where every chapter was just SOMETHING CRAZY HAPPENS then the next chapter was a dream flashback, rinse and repeat. Where was the downtime? I feel like all the big reveals, like learning about Narah and Chases life, would have been so much more emotionally impactful if they had taken place over several books. We don't really get given enough time to truly like these characters or root for them and their relationships.

I will admit that I actually did like Rieka, and as an autistic AFAB person I found her pretty relatable. The line where she says she doesn't like any men except her dad made me laugh cause me too queen. But weirdly I felt like towards the end of the book she had kind of lost most of her autistic mannerisms? I think this could understandably be explained away by character growth and learning to go with the flow and embrace her emotions, but if so, some dialogue about that would've maybe been good. Like, Narah or Avia commenting on how well she'd doing or how much she's changed.

I also felt really bad for Avia. Maybe it's just because I have a younger Aries sibling (I'm Sagittarius), but I felt like Avia really got punched down on the whole book, when I felt that most of the time her questions and comments were pretty reasonable. Frankly, Avia also read as very Autistic/ADHD combo with not reading the room very well, but whereas Rieka was much more supported and encouraged for her own issues, Avia just got shit on constantly. I did like her kind of romance with Chase though.

Chase was one of the characters I also really liked- I think he was fairly well written, but I wish we learned more about HIM. We know that he's very sweet and caring and muscular but like, what does he like to do? What does he miss about his life back home? Likewise, Kaia felt pretty bland. Her whole thing was just basically being a therapist, which I really didn't like. Surely this isn't good for HER. Kaias powers and how they were revealed feels really weirdly shoehorned in, and honestly I'm still not even sure how they're any different to what she could do before? This would've been way cooler if it was discovered in another book after she's had some actual character development of her own rather than just being the pretty therapist.

Towards the end it just felt like Chase and Kaia were playing parent to Rieka, which felt weird. If Avia is the big sister (she reads WAY more like a little sister) why the hell isn't she doing that? Even if they aren't super close, she's still her big sister, and yet she just isn't written into huge chunks of their travels.

The characters also just seemed to constantly make super illogical decisions which just baffled me. After Chase and Rieka get attacked in the archive, I genuinely cannot comprehend why they STAYED IN THE

BUILDING. Like what? Riekas had her memory wiped so she doesn't remember how daring she used to be, and Chase has never done this before, yet they're both so chill about nearly being murdered and having the government following after them to try again. Surely the sensible thing to do would've been to get the hell out of there?

Their reaction to it all was just so weird, they also wrapped their head around what was happening WAY TOO FAST. You're telling me our autistic MC just accepts that everything she knew about the world is wrong and that she now has to go on a super scary quest like.... In a minute? She doesn't need ten minutes to sit down and process? She just finds Atlas' note and is like ah yes perfect the world is a lie. Okay lets go! This is what mean about the book not really having enough breathing room. It just feels like one reveal after another with no time to really get to know the characters and world first.

Also, the mentions of parkas and high heels really confused me, as they do NOT fit with the overall kind of historical fantasy vibes. It just feels really jarring, and I kind of feel like the world is in a weird place where it's kinda high fantasy lord of the rings vibes, but also doesn't quite want to commit to it, so weird little things like that are included.

Okay, now for a fast round of other stuff I didn't like. Rieka says 'god forbid' at one point... What god? Avia references knowing that Chase is older than her... The chapter before they all share their ages. Why the fuck is a handshake forbidden for Scorpios? That's like the most formal, unemotional gesture EVER. Soras curse being broken a month ago is the most unimaginably lazy writing. Like what. That is so confusing and disappointing to read. Lastly, Rieka finding out Blaine is a horrible person (Sora multiple times references how abusive and cruel he is), and she... Doesn't even think about her mother? She's just found out her father is a horrible evil person and she doesn't worry about what he did to her mother ????? Her mother is implied to not be the most kind, but if shes horrible why does Rowan stick around her? The mother felt like kind of an unexplored character, who played virtually no part. At that point her and Avia may as well have had a dead mother and been raised alone by Rowan.

Okay, finally, the positive stuff. As I've said before, I liked Rieka, I liked Avia, and I liked Chase. I wanted to like Kaia but as mentioned, she really has no personality yet and feels very flat. Atlas was really funny, I laughed out loud when he hit Sora with the callexus. Chase being Narahs brother genuinely made me gasp because I didn't expect it, but to be honest maybe I'm just stupid but I didn't see any of the whole family revelations happening.

In general, I do think that there is a good book IN THERE. There just needs to be huge edits to fix the many many world building issues, and to flesh out some of the characters some more. Obviously I know it's too

late now for Milo to stop and spread this books plot out over several books, but hopefully the rest of the series, if it happens, are going to be much better paced.

This book really left me so conflicted on how to review it. If all of the issues in the book are resolved with the new edition, then I honestly think it would be at least a 3 star book, if not a 4 star. I wish I could give it that now, but with the state it is currently in, I have to give it a 1 star.

I probably will read the updated version when it comes out in spring, so I really hope this book gets the thorough re-edit it needs before then.

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mmmarigold's review against another edition

★☆☆☆☆ 0.75



slow-paced

Plot or Character Driven: A mix

Loveable characters: No

Flaws of characters a main focus: Complicated

Strong character development: Complicated

Diverse cast of characters: No



rotkappchen's review against another edition

DID NOT FINISH



Well I wanted to see for myself lol, Its bad ofc, I literally got so bored by it but I dont think it deserves so much hate ngl, its asscheeks but still



northstarnovels's review against another edition



EDIT: I did finish the book and even read it again, taking my time the second time around. I enjoyed the plot, but it still didn't deliver for me. The writing felt very young and a bit sloppy, more middle grade than YA.

I really wanted to love this book, I mean, I went into it excited. The author promoted it heavily on TikTok, and I was rooting for her, especially knowing how young she is and how long she's been working on it. But unfortunately, it just didn't deliver for me.

The writing felt messy and unpolished. The storyline was all over the place, and I couldn't connect with any of the characters. Even their names were confusing. too similar, which made it hard to keep track. And honestly, I didn't feel any chemistry between them at all. I kept wondering... was this even edited?

There were moments I had to reread pages, thinking I must've misunderstood something. I just couldn't believe this was the same book that had been in development for so many years.

I know a lot of people enjoyed it, and I truly wish I had too.....but this one was not for me

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gracee_05's review against another edition

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 2.0



pre read: i am SO excited for this book - i have wanted to read it since 2021 and have been following it since and i cannot wait to see this world unfold!!!

immediate post read: 4.25 ★ - this book ATE it UPPPPP - the drama, the world building, the characters, found family aspect, queer love, i will say - this book does definitely lean YA, so people need to be prepared for that and definitely the writing style reflects this too!! however i cannot wait for the progress of this series!!!

post read: a month later- as i sit on this more and more i think it's more of a 3 star book maximum (2.5 star specifically but im rounding down lol) i don't know i think there was a lack of depth that i didn't see the first time, i think in hindsight i loved this book so much because the author did - i hope the writing gets better because i will be continuing the series!

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moony1568's review against another edition

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 0.25



adventurous

fast-paced

Plot or Character Driven: N/A

Loveable characters: No

Flaws of characters a main focus: No

Strong character development: No

Diverse cast of characters: Complicated

0/10 Embarrassing

[For the full review go to my website](#)

> CONTENT WARNINGS



violetricia's review against another edition

DID NOT FINISH: 15%



TLDR: Very rarely do I completely DNF a book. However, my energy is better spent reading and enjoying edited books.

-

Disclaimer: I went into this book knowing about the timeline of this book's publication, the backlash after it was released, and the author. I wanted to be objective. I'm a writer and thought it would be a good case study. Perhaps there could be at least one good thing working here, SOMETHING I can learn.

But it physically pained me to read this book. I felt like I was trudging through the paragraphs like mud, trying so desperately to reach the point. The characters weren't interesting, especially not the lead. There were some cool ideas trying to happen, such as the lore of the woods and society's Scorpio oppression, but they certainly didn't land. From what I read, I can say the story is not beyond saving, but it's going to take a lot of work to fulfill its potential.

I watched a review (I will update with the influencer's name if I can remember who it is) which interpreted that the World of Gardian (underdeveloped) attempted to launch as an already-established universe and mega-fandom in the likes of Middle Earth and Hogwarts. I've thought about that commentary a lot.

That being said, revisiting this book once it's been re-released is not out of the question.

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aku2001's review against another edition

DID NOT FINISH: 56%



I really wanted to like this book. I've been following Audra since 2021 and was loving the content she put in her discord it seemed too good to be true. Spoiler alert it was. The writing was so repetitive and I couldn't stand the grammatical issues that littered the book.



arbbies's review against another edition

★☆☆☆☆ 1.0



Plot or Character Driven: **Plot**

Strong character development: **No**

Loveable characters: **No**

Diverse cast of characters: **Complicated**

Flaws of characters a main focus: **No**

A debut novel that felt unedited and unfinished. The story was both lazy and forced, the language wasn't very nuanced, and the author's trust in the reader was low. At several points, characters would, in in-text dialogue, spell out the exact revelation that should have been inferred by the reader. The setting also felt small, but you can tell she wanted her characters to travel on a LoTR-style journey. I also think the author couldn't decide on a theme. Are the characters their zodiac archetypes or do they overcome their flaws? Are the characters meant to embrace or subvert their birthrights? Does an unknown family history really mean you, yourself, are now a bad person, even if you had nothing to do with your ancestor's atrocities?

I'll stop there. You can probably see the other reviews that mine is joining...

I don't want to dunk too much on a young author, and if you do give her several benefits of the doubt, she has intriguing ideas that needed the strong hand of an editor and many years of research for actual clarity and depth.

Perhaps this story was written with good intentions, but it feels disingenuous to call this work anything worth reading or recommending.

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**cmrm24's review** against another edition

★★★★☆ 3.0



adventurous

medium-paced

Plot or Character Driven: **A mix**Loveable characters: **Complicated**Flaws of characters a main focus: **Yes**Strong character development: **Complicated**Diverse cast of characters: **No**

This is a great YA book and is filled with fun magic and twists. The pacing is a bit weird and it felt like characters were just given a new power when they got stuck. Some of the language used wants this book to be older, but the way it's written makes it a solid YA fantasy. I think this would have been a great ARC or Beta read and all the art and details on the page were an added bonus. I'm looking forward to reading the next edition.

**cethomas149's review** against another edition

challenging

slow-paced

Plot or Character Driven: **N/A**Loveable characters: **No**Flaws of characters a main focus: **Yes**Strong character development: **No**Diverse cast of characters: **No****✓ CONTENT WARNINGS****Graphic:** Child abuse



sundayfundayreadswd's review against another edition



slow-paced

Plot or Character Driven: **A mix**

Strong character development: **No**

Loveable characters: **No**

Diverse cast of characters: **No**

Flaws of characters a main focus: **Yes**



ohheyandi's review against another edition



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 0.25

slow-paced

Plot or Character Driven: **N/A**

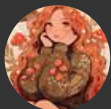
Strong character development: **No**

Loveable characters: **No**

Diverse cast of characters: **No**

Flaws of characters a main focus: **Yes**

I want my time back



spells_and_potions's review against another edition



medium-paced

Plot or Character Driven: **N/A**

Strong character development: **No**

Loveable characters: **No**

Diverse cast of characters: **No**

Flaws of characters a main focus: **No**

I read the entire book just to review it. It was one of the hardest reads of my life.

Normally I would leave my personal issues with the author out of the review, but this information is important to anyone considering purchasing this book or supporting this author in the future.

"The Age of Scorpius" is a rewrite of the author's previously published book from 2016. That book was

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nekonietzsche's review against another edition



adventurous

challenging

slow-paced

Plot or Character Driven: **A mix**

Strong character development: **No**

Loveable characters: **No**

Diverse cast of characters: **Yes**

Flaws of characters a main focus: **No**

I gotta stop doubting myself and just publish my book



greekblt's review against another edition



medium-paced

Plot or Character Driven: N/A

Strong character development: No

Loveable characters: No

Diverse cast of characters: No

Flaws of characters a main focus: No

Cannot believe I read this to the end. Truly a painful experience.

**sleepyines's review** against another edition

DID NOT FINISH: 11%



Por ahora lo dejo. Sabia donde me metia y la verdad es que la historia de fondo no esta mal. Pero es verdad que tiene muchas cositas a mejorar en todos los capitulos que he leído. Cosas que no tienen sentido y conceptos repetidos y eso.

Pero bueno, al parecer esta reescribiendo el libro en vez de editarlo??? Y ademas esta diciendo que todo fue culpa de sus primeros editores xd cuando ellos no tienen la culpa de que no siguiera sus indicaciones y/o no les dire el tiempo suficiente.... no se, quizas lo siga dentro de un tiempo o cuando lo rehaga idk,

[Show More](#)**aalleeyyee's review** against another edition

Plot or Character Driven: Plot

Strong character development: No

Loveable characters: No

Diverse cast of characters: No

Flaws of characters a main focus: Yes



stitchsaddiction's review

★☆☆☆☆ 1.0



slow-paced

Plot or Character Driven: A mix

Loveable characters: No

Flaws of characters a main focus: Complicated

Strong character development: No

Diverse cast of characters: Yes

The Age of Scorpius was on my radar for some time after the author, Audra Winter promoted her book in what was seen as an incredible manner. I think a good number of people now know the story, and I'm not going to make my review anything to do with the drama that came from the hype and then fallout. While I noticed the hype surrounding its release, my review reflects only what I read and is still unbiased by online opinions.

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meatonomy's review against another edition

DID NOT FINISH



DNF ; got to chapter 13 and then stopped reading. because i dont like this book. technically would be a 1.5 since i didnt have to pay for it but i dont like it.

im already not a big YA fan- im a fan of the classics, but i like to give YA books a shot. to be honest, i wanted to read this because of everything that was happening. sure, i love drama, but i do believe in reading the content itself if intriguing enough. so here are all my thoughts!

[Show More](#)**azan_'s review** against another edition

★★★★☆ 4.0



adventurous

lighthearted

medium-paced

Plot or Character Driven: **A mix**Strong character development: **Yes**Loveable characters: **Yes**Diverse cast of characters: **Yes**Flaws of characters a main focus: **Complicated**

Objectively, the book is kinda bad, yeah. There are many plot inconsistencies and the writing could use some editing. The characters could also definitely use some work, to be honest. I agree that it does feel like a first draft rather than a book that was ready to be published.

But, regardless of that I really enjoyed the book. It was pretty fun to read and I liked the characters and world we were in. Reading this makes me feel nostalgic in a way because it feels like a mix of the kinds of cartoons I used to watch and the fantasy world I made up in my head as a kid. So wouldn't recommend, but I personally liked it a lot.

[Show Less](#)**kneginja's review** against another edition

DID NOT FINISH: 39%



I'm nothing if not a sucker for drama, so when I caught wind of the Audra Winters situation over on social media, I had to give this book a chance. I tried for over a month to read it, but it truly is a bad book.

The writing is, to put it nicely, lacking. I won't even touch upon the typos and mistakes made in the text, but the sentences are repetitive, bland, poorly-constructed, etc.

The characters are boring and confusing. I can't tell you with 100% certainty if Rieka, the main character, is a younger sibling or an older sibling, because I feel like both things have been said in the opening chapters. The characters basically do nothing, things just happen to them. Rieka at one point remarks about how close a friend someone has become to her and, practically in the same breath, follows up with "I must remember to antagonize [him] later." Why would you antagonize a close friend??

I've seen people online saying that the worldbuilding for this novel is its saving grace and the only thing with potential in this whole debacle, but I must disagree. The person who wrote this either does not know a single thing about astrology, knows some basic things but does not care, or all the astrological errors made within the worldbuilding are explained at a point in the novel that I did not reach. As a person who knows a bit about astrology, some worldbuilding decisions made absolutely no sense, confused me, and were absolutely infuriating.

I gave up at 39% because, frankly, I would rather have crapped in my hands and clapped. Maybe (HUGE maybe), once this thing is rewritten and actually grows from a Draft Zero into an actual novel ready to be published, I'll give it a second chance. A lesson to all aspiring writers, editing is king, and do not write about a topic you either know nothing about or do not care about enough to research properly.

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hazec Clarke's review against another edition

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 1.5



adventurous

emotional

lighthearted

medium-paced

Plot or Character Driven: **Character**

Strong character development: **No**

Loveable characters: **Complicated**

Diverse cast of characters: **Yes**

Flaws of characters a main focus: **Yes**

**fynnsternis's review** against another edition

★★★★☆ 2.75



fast-paced

Diverse cast of characters: **Yes**Flaws of characters a main focus: **Complicated**

Soooo for this review I will ignore the circumstances of people paying money for the pre-order because I was not affected by that personally and enough people have talked about it.

Now, this wasn't good. As everyone else has already said, she uses words wrong, she repeats things unnecessarily, the world-building is extremely incomprehensible, I still have no idea how exactly anything works, the prose sounds extremely clunky.

That said, this reads exactly like a fourteen-year-old's Wattpad passion project that is not good but there is still clearly so much enthusiasm behind it, you can't help but appreciate it (ignoring the author is in fact 22 and not 14. Details, really). Maybe it helped that I was reading *Powerless* at the same time and that is truly infuriating in its plot and writing but *Age of Scorpius* was kind of fun and I want to see where it goes although I am not sure that the author will be able to publish any more books...

[Show Less](#)**steph_sessions's review** against another edition

★★★★☆ 3.0



adventurous

Was really excited to read this book and see how the zodiac signs played in to everyones powers. It was a really good idea but very poorly executed.



horologiorums's review against another edition

DID NOT FINISH: 13%



i don't think the writing is as atrocious as some reviews imply -- grammatical errors aside -- but it is very... juvenile. the sort of writing you would expect from a fifteen year old. with help from a proper editor, i think the revised book will turn out fine.

that being said... the writer, audra winter, doesn't seem very interested in the actual writing. perhaps she would benefit converting the story into a graphic novel format, considering she seems into the art and world of gardian more than anything else.

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draconologist's review against another edition

★☆☆☆☆ 0.5



medium-paced

Plot or Character Driven: **A mix**

Loveable characters: **No**

Flaws of characters a main focus: **Yes**

Strong character development: **No**

Diverse cast of characters: **Yes**

**lisp's review** against another edition

★☆☆☆☆ 1.0



DNF 10%

**_thebratprince_'s review** against another edition

DID NOT FINISH: 9%



i made it through four chapters of this (digitally, thank god for ocean pdf) and had to call it quits. what in the world.

**robinsversion's review** against another edition

DID NOT FINISH: 6%



Grabbed a digital copy cuz I heard how much it sucked and wanted to experience it for myself, and, yep, this was trash. Audra claims she's been "perfecting" this book for ten years but she can't even be bothered to google a word every so often to make sure she's using it right, let alone craft sentences that make a lick of sense. This clunky prose reads like it was written by a space alien, and the author's claims that she did it on purpose cuz the pov character is autistic, is so ableist it makes me seething mad. My apologies to all the people who have been looking forward to this book for months if not years because you definitely weren't given what you were promised.

[Show Less](#)



catherineisa's review against another edition

★☆☆☆☆ 1.0



adventurous

Loveable characters: No

Badly written. Badly edited and kind of just boring all around.



signaut's review against another edition

★☆☆☆☆ 1.0



medium-paced

Plot or Character Driven: N/A

Loveable characters: No

Flaws of characters a main focus: N/A

Strong character development: No

Diverse cast of characters: N/A

It's my fault for wanting to try and read this because of the commotion.

Also I don't think that just revision and light? editing can actually save the convoluted plot, the convenience of all the characters having the necessary connections and powers at all times. Pertinent questions are never asked, there really isn't any character development.

Everyone is special so nobody is.

Show Less



wig2987's review against another edition

DID NOT FINISH: 4%



I should've done 100 pages but the writing is just to mid for me to continue will probably speed read before the revised edition comes out and compare them.

I will admit, the world is cool from what i've seen and with a bit more character building and world building this story could be a good one.



hannahmareads's review against another edition

DID NOT FINISH: 14%



This book has some of the clunkiest writing and confusing world building. The world building was achieved by creating a main character that doesn't seem to know anything about her family or the world she lives in despite being a researcher recently entering into adulthood. I had to stop reading when she needed a big tall man to help her with her secret project of reading ancient runes that were too high up for her tiny petite frame. Come on. This was very hyped by the author and her "team" of artists and is currently experiencing a lot of criticism and backlash. While it's obviously not the authors fault for hyping up her book and getting a bunch of preorders, I hope she takes the feedback and improves her writing as a result.

[Show Less](#)



thelibraryfromscratch's review against another edition

★☆☆☆☆ 1.0



reflective

sad

tense

medium-paced

Plot or Character Driven: A mix

Strong character development: No

Loveable characters: No

Diverse cast of characters: Yes

Flaws of characters a main focus: Yes

Hey so fun fact- I can't currently post a review on GoodReads! So this is currently only listed on StoryGraph.

To the author, Audra, if you read this- please know this is not meant to be a review to hurt your feelings. I've been a young girl obsessed with writing and with my own fantasies. I still have my writings from all those years ago and would probably be just as excited as you are / were to get published. Please understand that I'm trying to be objective.

The Age of Scorpius was a book I was highly excited for. The first third of the book was honestly pretty enjoyable, having me hovering at a 3/5. However, the quality issues truly never improved and the plot slowly became that of a book I truly didn't care for.

I wrote many notes after finishing The Age of Scorpius, mostly in the form of bullet points. I'll do my best to repeat them here.

Grammar. This has been repeated many times by people making video essays and reviews. It's bad. Pretty bad in some places, ignorable in others. And honestly, a good round or two with a solid editor and some ARC readers would have solved this.

Pacing. The Age of Scorpius is simultaneously having nothing happen, and everything happen, all at once. It's a very "and then this happened, then this happened, and this happened" etc., which can be both exhausting on a plot level and destructive on a pacing one. Spending a page or two having events happening non-stop that ultimately mean nothing just makes the reader bored. I sadly spent the second half of the book just hoping /something/ major would happen that didn't involve the MC and being Deus Ex Machina'd into being a super special person.

Relationships. I hate Avia. Chase is a blank slate love interest for Avia. Kaia starts strong but fades into irrelevance pretty quickly. Reika... I don't hate her that much. The secret immortal people that everyone seems to be related to are just plain annoying. Narah is honestly my favorite. The presence of romance in the plot honestly doesn't feel warranted, except maybe for Reika. But we also see nearly NONE of their falling for and being in love with their partner for most of the book, so how strongly they're connected doesn't feel realistic. And honestly, it isn't needed.

Sexual Conversation / Cursing. It isn't needed. No spicy scene thankfully, but telling people to "practice safe sex" and dropping curse words randomly (only towards the end) really reflects either this book being a crude edit to a rough draft from childhood having adult aspects shoehorned in, or frankly a really badly written YA plot. Without the sexual content and cursing, this book for the most part might have fit in well at my old middle school.

Dialogue. Horrible. The sentences themselves honestly just need rewritten and formatted. They don't sound human or natural. I'm neurodivergent myself, and while I may sometimes communicate in the ways the MCs do, it's not a daily or regular basis. It comes across very robotic, which for many readers is not going to make them enjoy it. And frankly, it's dry. There's a ton of repeating info immediately after finding something out. My "favorite" non-dialogue line involves "... and understanding myself. I'm understanding how to understand to be understood." If you read the ebook on iPhone is on page 471/478, approximately.

The Ending. Not spoiling it, but I frankly hated it. A bunch of nothing that led to a scene that would have been a great ending if the plot was completed and there wasn't a need for future books. If this was just one book all tied up plot wise, this would have been cute. Instead, it felt like there was more chapters missing.

Honestly, I don't want to add much more here.

Again, this isn't meant to be hurtful to the author or the subset of people who enjoyed this. I liked the first third but as it drug on I really became bored.

The Age of Scorpius gets a 1/5- possibly my first ever. After this book gets relaunched, perhaps it will be better and earn a higher rating. But for now, this is where the Zodiac Wheel stops.

Thank you for reading this review of The Age of Scorpius. This marks my 30th book in 2025, completing my reading challenge (I also passed 10k pages earlier this year)!

If you'd like to read more reviews like this one, follow us at TheLibraryFromScratch. We own over 1,600 physical and 100 digital books.

My goal was to read 30 books this year, ignoring Manga, and when accounting for 3 audio books this year, I've reached my goal!

Super excited for the last few months of the year.

Hope to see you around!

Have a great 2025!

[Show Less](#)



criticalshayming's review against another edition

★☆☆☆☆ 1.25

challenging

slow-paced

Plot or Character Driven: **Character**

Loveable characters: **No**

Flaws of characters a main focus: **Yes**

Strong character development: **No**

Diverse cast of characters: **Yes**



hannahkatereads's review against another edition

★☆☆☆☆ 1.0



fast-paced

Strong character development: **No** Loveable characters: **No**



beebidon's review against another edition

DID NOT FINISH: 13%



Everything the reviews are saying and more. It's just bad. And the author is too busy buying an LLC, hiring a staff of 10+ artists, and talking about book art details on tiktok to acknowledge the mess SHE made with HER writing. Girl, just make a ttrpg or something.



kaitoxi's review against another edition

★☆☆☆☆ 1.0



fast-paced

Plot or Character Driven: **A mix**

Strong character development: **No**

Loveable characters: **No**

Diverse cast of characters: **Yes**

Flaws of characters a main focus: **Yes**



lexy95's review against another edition

★☆☆☆☆ 1.0



slow-paced



csimonsensays's review against another edition

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 2.5



adventurous

mysterious

slow-paced

Plot or Character Driven: **A mix**

Diverse cast of characters: **Yes**

Strong character development: **Complicated**

Flaws of characters a main focus: **Complicated**



spniko's review against another edition

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 1.0



fast-paced

Plot or Character Driven: **Plot**

Loveable characters: **No**

Flaws of characters a main focus: **No**

Strong character development: **Complicated**

Diverse cast of characters: **Yes**

Unfortunately this was very sloppy, The overall premise of the book does have potential but it was not executed well. The dialogue was clunky, the story telling was repetitive, and the story is not well fleshed out. If she tries to hit the December deadline to re-publish this i don't think it will be any better, this book needs a complete overhaul.



kangdile's review against another edition

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 1.5



adventurous

dark

medium-paced

Plot or Character Driven: **Plot**

Strong character development: **Complicated**

Loveable characters: **Complicated**

Diverse cast of characters: **Yes**

Flaws of characters a main focus: **Yes**

Okay I want to start with the fact that this book, story, and world does have potential and despite giving herself a rather strict, and too soon deadline for rewriting of December (in my opinion), I wish this author the best on that- *and I will probably read it*. As well as with the other media she wants to place within this world. However with her grand focus on the artwork, maybe we should've gone with a graphic novel? In very short, this really is just as bad as everyone has been saying. The lack of editing is a big issue, but the story falls flat for all the marketing hype too.

My largest issue with this is book is that the way it is written and edited (lack of) does **NOT** make this feel like YA, but instead like a middle grade book. The constant repeating of the same information between characters or in descriptions for the reader are much more suited for a middle grade child to grasp, than the older YA audience the author wants this to be for. I understand that the main character is supposed to be neurodivergent, but there is repeating parts **within the narrative that speaks to the reader and NOT her**. Hence where most people's frustration is coming from. Making the note that she's neurodivergent not play a role with that repetition quirk, but a lack of editing and lack of trust in the reader be really shows; there is no trust for the reader to understand anything in this book to be honest at least not with story beats. The magic system is just info-dumped on you while even the characters were confused by it, which uh... girl you live there, not me. ~~I still don't understand what Geminis can do and that's MY zodiac sign, so like... ideal OC character to create if I was in the fandom, but all I can remember is that white isn't one of their primary colors, so uh... cool I guess.~~ **I feel like a toddler on a backpack leash for this story, but my parents gave the end of the leash to my brother, who is like five or six for this metaphor. Sorry, I thought that was funny.**

This does also suffer even in dialogue within the characters to each other such as within a few pages in is mentioned that a river flows past the mountains twice; our characters were just told this, why does it need repeating? Or why does it need repeating with the full explanation? It just doesn't. On this note full place names in general are repeated a lot, such as with the Conviction Woods in the first few pages and then

throughout the book, girl can't just call it home or the woods? We have an emotional attachment and no nickname??? Not even mentally if we ignore the whole Scorpio code, which our MC does all the time, and still doesn't once really call it home.

The other case I'll bring up is when three characters that were ALL next to each other feel the need to go "gasp Chase is a Libra healer" back to back. Also two of them were already aware of it?? This isn't just the only time, such as after being told the real history by Sora they repeat back multiple things to her that she had literally just said. ~~Does everyone have the memory of a goldfish?~~

More on grammar here, I understand there is a vast magic system within this book, but the way the author tries to work into the words for it makes certain sentences suffer quite a bit because they don't exactly make sense on a first read or even really at all. Especially with sudden change from using dreamseeked to dreamsought with little context as if those are actually supposed to mean two different things. I also still don't really understand what magic each of the 12 zodiacs are supposed to have because it seemed like a new one popped up quite randomly, such as the Scorpio man who had ghost dogs with him or something like that.

Honestly I can't say at the end of the day that all that is just an editing issue, but quite a bit of is structure too that I find flaws in the author's general writing. I understand you started working on it when you were 12, but... the style needed to grow too.

Moving on from grammar and editing, the characters fell rather flat for me too, I understand they're tropes and standard YA fantasy, but there could've been more to them. They really don't feel complete and their dynamic also falls flat because despite them being stuck together on this mentioned, and two are sisters they don't feel like even know each other after spending all this time with each other. They're rather basic and I get that they're adhering to zodiac sign tropes, but we could still try more.

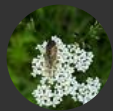
Focusing on Reika for a moment the one huge thing I keep missing with her is that we open the book with her knowing that the entire government is built on a lie and that she's becoming a historian to use that as a cover for discovering the actual truth; as well as inspire reform, but she goes on to be just as shocked as her kinda-sorta friends of learning that well... everything is built on a lie? I understand her being shocked about who her father really is, being brainwashed, her childhood friend/girlfriend-to enemy- to situationship???- to maybe her girlfriend again being tortured as well because well... she didn't know at all. But she acts just as surprised to learn that taught history is a lie just like her friends are, when she started the book knowing this. I don't understand why she regresses like that. Obviously she wouldn't know everything, but she can at least use context about things she knows are false to look at others.

One small note I also don't understand when Reika states "oh that's why my mother hates me" at one point because every last interaction she had with her mother did not have the vibes like she hated her at all.

I'll stop there because it really has just been a massive let down after all the marketing that I didn't even consume all that much, but the maybe two tik toks I watched fully did have me interested in reading, but I needed to get through my set TBR, so I ignored, but well derailed it anyway! It truly, truly is just as bad as people are saying and I do regret wasting my time with it this year because I didn't even preorder, but I just feel let down by some marketing and reading the blurb.

~~Also I do repeat myself at points in this review because well it is an issue and I know most people are not going read everything I say.~~

[Show Less](#)



the_bookishbug's review against another edition

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 0.5



medium-paced

Plot or Character Driven: **Plot**

Strong character development: **No**

Loveable characters: **No**

Diverse cast of characters: **Yes**

Flaws of characters a main focus: **No**

There was a lot about this novel that did not work, both technically and in the actual concept.

There are a notable number of errors in the text and formatting, the prose is *extremely* repetitive, especially in the first quarter of the book, and certain turns of phrase are used incorrectly. The dialogue is stilted and awkward, making it a slog to read.

The world feels very built out in some ways - clearly a lot of thought went into some parts of it, but at the same time, there are glaring holes in the world that just aren't filled in. I don't feel like there's a bigger world at play beyond what our characters are participating in. The magic system has been so built out that it's actually very unwieldy and needlessly complex, and not in a way that's interesting or engaging.

The characters were all flat, with either no flaws or all the flaws. Seriously, what was up with the way Avia was often written and described? It felt like even the author didn't want her around, not just Reika.

The dreamscape flashbacks didn't do a good job of making me care about Narah at all - she was just there with absolutely no context for their relationship or the rebellion they started ever given. It made it hard to feel invested.

Overall, I wouldn't recommend this book unless you're just really, really into zodiac-based magic systems. Even then, I suspect there are better out there.

Also. "Kira" is not the letters of "Reika" rearranged. That part made no sense and I actually found it pretty annoying given "Keira" is a perfectly serviceable name.

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mjspice's review against another edition

DID NOT FINISH



All that hustle and the book still shit. Wow just wow.



emapplewhite's review against another edition



Terribly planned, written, & executed.

**cierralovesliterature's review** against another edition

★★★★☆ 3.0



i love this hardback and all the artwork sm! even though i wish some of the sketches i saw on tiktok were depicted. i definitely noticed a few typos and times where it felt like a sentence was just edited out and i was just lost, which was unfortunate but we all miss things. i really liked the main characters except for avia, but i think she'll get her character development. i think the storyline needed something more bc i felt like we were traveling and running from narah for 95% of the book. i do also kinda wish we saw more of narah and rieka from past memories, but i get that we'll see more of them in book two. i also thought

[Show More](#)**lmdotcom's review** against another edition

adventurous

medium-paced

Plot or Character Driven: **A mix**Strong character development: **Complicated**Loveable characters: **No**Diverse cast of characters: **Complicated**

Haphazard sentences strung together passionately to bring together a passionate attempt at a book. You can feel the drive the author has, however, there is a lack of grounding and essential storytelling elements such as a solid setting and a resonant, comprehensible voice. The characters and world feel incredibly weak, but what was most glaring was the poor grammar, typos, never-ending sentences, half-baked conceptions of magic and in-world social constructs.



avalonreigns's review against another edition

★★★★☆ 3.5

adventurous

fast-paced

Plot or Character Driven: **A mix**



alexworden's review against another edition

★★★★☆ 2.75

I really liked the concept of this book but I don't think that it was executed well. It almost reads like a fanfic. I think this story could have benefitted a lot from some more editing.



yikesitsellie's review against another edition

★★★☆☆ 1.75

fast-paced

Plot or Character Driven: **A mix**

definitely can use some work but has potential! i have more critiques on my tiktok @yikesitsellie_ !!





paigeeblack's review against another edition

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 2.25



adventurous

emotional

fast-paced

Plot or Character Driven: **Plot**

Strong character development: **Complicated**

Loveable characters: **Complicated**

Diverse cast of characters: **Yes**

Flaws of characters a main focus: **No**



zcleland's review against another edition

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 4.0



adventurous

challenging

emotional

hopeful

fast-paced

Plot or Character Driven: **A mix**

Strong character development: **No**

Loveable characters: **Yes**

Diverse cast of characters: **Yes**

Flaws of characters a main focus: **Yes**

I think it's a wonderful example of a young author doing some fun and interesting world building. The magic system is entertaining and the plot point of one being able to "turn" their sign has a lot of good plot potential.

I also appreciate its focus on emotions, the impact from emotions, and having to break the cycle of generational trauma.

The writing itself is not bad, but it is what I would expect in a young debuting author who is writing in the world they have been creating since they were a kid. Even still it had me reading it start to finish easily and happily.

Some of the conflict leans a bit heavily on the readers suspension of disbelief and there wasn't a strong

sense of urgency from the conflict.

But the “mystery” was a delightful experience and played really well into the world building. It also ended in a very clear fashion of setting up what comes next, opening up a lot of future world building and seeing how additional signs live and interact in this world.

Oh! I also love that it isn't really set in a fantasy world but a lost catastrophe version of our world. It was always fun (usually in the art work) to see reminder that they may have a cloak on but they are also just like wearing khakis and sneakers and a T-shirt under it.

Highly recommend for anyone to read but especially if your a fan of world building, fantasy, female

[Show Less](#)



corkyx2's review against another edition

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 2.5



adventurous

fast-paced

Strong character development: **No** Loveable characters: **No**



bkwrn1317's review against another edition

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 3.5



emotional

hopeful

mysterious

tense

medium-paced

Plot or Character Driven: **Character**

Loveable characters: **Yes**

Flaws of characters a main focus: **Complicated**

Strong character development: **Yes**

Diverse cast of characters: **Yes**

Debut novel by indie writer Audra Winter. I learned about this novel due to her talking about the world of Gardian that she has been building on TikTok. It sounded intriguing enough to submit for a pre-order copy, and am glad that I did!

While I do feel that this novel could be tightened up both in terms of copy/line edits, and content edits (tho especially line edits – there are a fairly significant number of places in the novel where the same phrase is repeated/wasn't correctly edited out in order to have correct sentence structure/non repetition, I ALSO feel like this is a very interesting world being built by Winter, and is promising as a series. There are some spots of odd pacing, but I think more than anything else, some tightening up on line edits in a few specific places would really benefit the novel, as it's an overall well-developed story with solid, believable characters, even if the wording is a bit awkward in places.

There's queer rep, coming of age, a lost memory getting restored, love and attraction without being spicy or too far into any area that I'd call "romance" (the love story is a subplot related to memory loss rather than being the principal purpose of the story/plotline). I also enjoyed the specific ways that Winter separates skills/professions by astrological sun sign, and created a world in which there is also political intrigue and stuff happening behind the scenes impacting folks in the fantasy world Winter has built.

It'll be interesting to see how this series continues, as I know Winter brought on a team of artists, and other folks to bring this world to life, and I love to see indie authors and artists thriving!

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